

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were pending. By this paper, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 9 and 11 to more particularly point out and distinctly define the present invention. Applicants have also amended claims 7, 13 and 19 to correct a spelling error. No new matter has been introduced by virtue of the present Amendment.

Applicants note, with appreciation, the indication of allowability of claims 3, 8, 11 and 14 in paragraph 3 of the present Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,003,381 to Kato, hereinafter, *Kato* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,119,066 to Ballyns, hereinafter *Ballyns*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a tire pressure monitor system located within the interior of a tire. The system comprises a housing having a wall forming a cavity and an interior wall forming a chamber in fluid communication with the cavity, and a tire pressure sensor located within the housing cavity. The sensor has an orifice for helping to sense tire pressure. The system further comprises a pressure cap inserted into the housing chamber. The pressure cap comprises a wall having a portion that contacts the sensor and extends around the sensor orifice. The pressure cap substantially blocks fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the housing cavity while providing fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the exterior of the housing.

As set forth above, claim 3 has been indicated as being allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to include certain limitations from claim 3 that are not found in the prior art.

For instance, claim 1 recites that the cap substantially blocks fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the housing cavity while providing fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the exterior of the housing. Neither *Kato* nor *Ballyns*, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-8 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Moreover, these claims add further limitations which further define the invention and render them separately allowable.

Claim 9 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Kato* in view of *Ballyns*. Applicants also traverse this rejection.

Claim 9 recites a pressure cap for use with a tire pressure monitor comprising a housing having a wall forming a cavity and an interior wall forming a chamber in fluid communication with the cavity and an air pressure sensor within the housing. The cap comprises a cap wall which when inserted within the chamber extends between the housing wall and the sensor and extends around the sensor orifice. The wall substantially blocks fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the housing cavity while providing fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the exterior of the housing.

Similarly to claim 1, claim 9 recites a pressure cap having a cap wall which substantially blocks fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the housing cavity while providing fluid communication between the sensor orifice and the exterior of the housing. Neither *Kato* nor *Ballyns*, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is allowable.

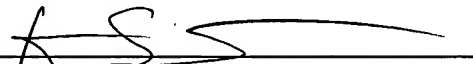
Claims 11-14 all depend either directly or indirectly from claim 9 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 9. Moreover these claims add further limitations which further define the invention and render them separately allowable.

Claims 15-20 were subject to restriction. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 15-20 with claims 1-14.

Applicants submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants have calculated no additional fee to be due in connection with the filing of this Paper. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHAEL A. ULESKI ET AL.

By 
Michael S. Brodbine
Reg. No. 38,392
Attorney for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351